

Claims

- [c1] A networked conferencing system comprising:
 - a conference server;
 - conference resources controlled by the conference server;
 - one or more conference clients by which conference participants communicate with the conference server via a communications network;
 - a set of moderator permissions by which the conference server controls moderator access to moderator functions;
 - at least one set of alternate moderator permissions by which the conference server controls alternate moderator access to moderator functions;
 - means to identify a moderator participant logged in at a conference client; and
 - means to identify one or more alternate moderator participants, each logged in at a conference client.
- [c2] A system according to claim 1, wherein the moderator participant designates one or more alternate moderator participants at a time of conference creation.
- [c3] A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for the moderator to add and remove alternate moderator participants at any time after conference creation.

- [c4] A system according to claim 1, wherein a single set of alternate moderator permissions applies to all alternate moderator participants.
- [c5] A system according to claim 1, wherein separate sets of alternate moderator permissions apply to selected alternate moderator participants.
- [c6] A system according to claim 1, further comprising:
means for at least one alternate moderator participant to designate other alternate moderator participants.
- [c7] A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one alternate moderator participant is granted the same permissions as the moderator.
- [c8] A system according to claim 1, further comprising means for the moderator participant to transfer moderator status to another participant.
- [c9] A method for providing networked conferencing, comprising the steps of:
providing a conference server;
providing conference resources, said resources being

controlled by the conference server;
providing one or more conference clients by which conference participants communicate with the conference server via a communications network;
providing a set of moderator permissions by which the conference server controls moderator access to moderator functions;
providing at least one set of alternate moderator permissions by which the conference server controls alternate moderator access to moderator functions;
identifying a moderator participant logged in at a conference client; and
identify one or more alternate moderator participants, each logged in at a conference client.

- [c10] A method according to claim 9, including the step of having the moderator participant designate one or more alternate moderator participants at a time of conference creation.
- [c11] A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:
providing means for the moderator to add and remove alternate moderator participants at any time after conference creation.
- [c12] A method according to claim 9, including the step of ap-

plying a single set of alternate moderator permissions to all alternate moderator participants.

- [c13] A method according to claim 9, including the step of applying separate sets of alternate moderator permissions to selected alternate moderator participants.
- [c14] A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:
providing means for at least one alternate moderator participant to designate other alternate moderator participants.
- [c15] A method according to claim 1, including the step of granting at least one alternate moderator participant the same permissions as the moderator.
- [c16] A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:
providing means for the moderator participant to transfer moderator status to another participant.
- [c17] A system for networked conferencing, comprising:
a set of conference resources;
a set of moderator access permissions;
at least one set of alternate moderator access permissions;
a plurality of conference clients;

a conference server, said conference server further comprising conference control services and access control services, said conference serving being operative to communicate with conference clients to control access to conference resources according to the set of permissions associated with a conference participant logged in at each conference client.

- [c18] A system according to claim 17, further comprising:
means to identify a moderator participant logged in at a conference client.
- [c19] A system according to claim 18, further comprising:
means to identify one or more alternate moderator participants logged in at one or more respective conference clients.
- [c20] A system according to claim 19, further comprising:
means for a moderator participant to designate one or more alternate moderator participants.